

European Pseudoscorpions from New England

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Abstract: The occurrence of *Cheiridium museorum* (Leach) and *Allochernes peregrinus* Lohmander in North America is recorded for the first time.

Over the years a small number of European pseudoscorpions have been identified in the fauna of North America (cf. Hoff, 1958; Muchmore, 1969). This note is to report two additional species collected in New England and presumably established there.

Cheiridium museorum (Leach)

Three male specimens were found at Pepperell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, in September, 1966 by P. Weygoldt (collection of Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University). These specimens have been prepared for microscopic study, examined in detail, then compared both with Beier's description of the species (1963, p. 244) and with representatives of the species from Herefordshire, England (on loan from the British Museum, Natural History). They are similar in all details of size and proportion, and there is no doubt that they are *C. museorum*. This species is easily distinguished from the known American forms; *C. insperatum* Hoff and Clawson (1952) is significantly larger and has more slender appendages, while *C. firmum* Hoff (1953) is much smaller and has more robust appendages.

Even though Beier (1932, p. 8) considered that *C. museorum* was almost cosmopolitan in distribution, the species has never been definitely reported from the Western Hemisphere. It certainly might be expected that a species which is so common around homes and farms in Europe would have been introduced into America on many occasions; but, if so, it has either failed to establish itself here, or else has not been noticed because of its very small size and cryptic habits.

Allochernes peregrinus Lohmander

A single male, apparently referable to this species, was taken by S. B. Peck at Monadnock State Park, Marlboro, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, on

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14 June 1970. It was recovered by Berlese separation of a 42 liter sample of beech leaf-log litter, and was accompanied by many specimens of *Microbisium confusum* Hoff, other arthropods, etc. The specimen has been mounted on a slide, studied in detail, and compared with the descriptions of species of *Allochernes* provided by Beier (1963, p. 262) and with specimens of *A. dubius* (Cambridge), kindly supplied by P. D. Gabbutt of the University of Manchester, England. According to all morphological criteria, it appears to be a representative of *A. peregrinus*, a form which has been known only from Sweden. In particular, the eleventh tergites possess tactile setae; the palps are attenuated; and the fourth pedal tarsus bears no real tactile seta, but rather an elongated, dentate seta just distad of the middle.

On the basis of the single specimen, it cannot be decided indisputably that it belongs to this species; it might possibly be an individual variant of some other species of the genus. However, it is certainly a representative of *Allochernes*, a European and Asian genus never previously reported from America. It is hoped that further collecting in the area and elsewhere will turn up additional specimens of this interesting species.

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